

811: Call Before You Dig!

It's the law, and 811 will make it easier than ever!

Call Before You Dig! Every Time!

Indiana law requires all property owners to make an important phone call before doing any digging on their land. Whether you are planting a tree, putting in a new fence or children's playset, or digging for any other reason, it is critical that you call the Indiana Underground Plant Protection Service (IUPPS) at least 48 hours in advance.

By calling IUPPS, utility crews can come to your property and mark the locations of underground utility lines at no charge to you. The markings are done with chalk that rain will eventually wash away. Allowing utility crews to mark line locations will help keep you - or a contractor - from accidentally hitting a gas line, water main or other underground line. This will help keep service to you and your neighbors from being disrupted, and help protect you from expensive repair costs and a potential fine.

More importantly, calling before you dig can help protect you from a serious or even fatal injury.

Making this brief phone call is important no matter how shallow you dig or how simple your project is, since different utility lines are buried at different depths.

It Will Soon Be Easier Than Ever

Beginning in May, you'll be able to make this important call simply by dialing **811**.

The Federal Communications Commission has designated **811** as the new, national number for all local "Call Before You Dig" phone centers throughout the United States. Indiana is joining the rest of the country in transitioning to **811**, which will take effect May 1 and be reachable toll-free from anywhere in the state.

In the meantime, the Indiana Underground Plant Protection Service (IUPPS) can be reached toll-free at 1-800-382-5544.

Why is 811 needed?

A recent national survey showed that only one-third (1/3) of all homeowners called to have their utility lines marked before they started outdoor projects requiring digging. But in a different national survey, 89 percent of professional excavators said this is a simple and quick call to make.

The new **811** number will be easy to remember, and will make it as easy as possible for anyone to make this important call.

Remember: Calling before you dig is free. The service is free. It may save you money. And it may save your life!

